

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated March 11, 2004, claims 1, 2, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over U.S. Patent No. 6,064,656 (Angal); claims 3, 4, 13 and 14 were rejected under § 103 over Angal in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,427,168 (McCollum); claims 5-10 and 15-20 were rejected under § 103 over Angal in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,459,700 (Hoang).

As amended, claim 1 is allowable over Angal. Claim 1 recites a method of obtaining information useful for management of a composite e-service that includes, in performing a set of service interactions among a set of e-services, at least a first e-service (which provides a portal to the composite e-service) sending a first request to a second e-service at a first lower level of the tree structure, and the second e-service sending a second request to a third e-service at a level of the tree structure lower than the first lower level.

Angal describes a distributed access control system to efficiently handle large numbers of access requests to a network having large numbers of management objects. Angal, 2:27-32. An access control engine is distributed across a plurality of servers, including a primary management information server 150 and auxiliary servers 152. Angal, 6:21-24, 45-48. The management information server 150 of Angal only performs access control for objects at the top of a management objects tree, while each of the auxiliary servers 152 perform access control for objects in respective designated sub-trees of the management objects tree. Angal, 6:55-59. If an access request targets portions of the management object tree that are serviced by more than one server, the access request is split into access sub-requests by the management information server 150 and sent to the appropriate auxiliary servers 152. Angal, 7:16-20. Note, however, that Angal teaches that only the management information server 150 sends sub-requests to auxiliary servers 152--the auxiliary servers 152 do *not* in turn send further sub-requests to lower level auxiliary servers. Consequently, Angal does not disclose the following feature of claim 1: a first e-service (that provides a portal to the composite e-service) sending a first request to a second e-service at a first lower level of the tree structure, and the second e-service sending a second request to a third e-service at a level of the tree structure lower than the first lower level. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated by Angal.

Independent claim 11 is allowable over Angal for reasons similar to those for claim 1.

Newly added independent claim 21 recites a system having a plurality of modules to provide a set of digital services arranged in a tree structure, where the digital services comprise

at least one of on-line electronic commerce services, on-line news services, on-line sports services, on-line entertainment services, and on-line educational services. The modules generate sets of management information as a result of interacting of the digital services, and the modules transfer the sets of management information up the tree structure and combine the management information at each module as the management information is transferred up the tree structure.

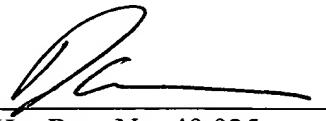
In contrast, Angal describes a distributed access control system that handles access requests to management objects that represent different aspects of devices, such as configuration, statistics, status, and control. Angal, 1:42-46; 2:27-32. Such different aspects of devices do not constitute on-line electronic commerce services, on-line news services, on-line sports services, on-line entertainment services, or on-line educational services. Therefore, independent claim 21 is also not anticipated by Angal.

Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as corresponding independent claims.

Claims 3-10 and 13-20 were rejected under § 103 over Angal in view of another reference. Because the rejection of each of base claims 1, 11, and 21 has been overcome, it is respectfully submitted that the obviousness rejections have also been overcome.

In view of the foregoing, all claims are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025 (10991884-1).

Respectfully submitted,



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